

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, .	Case No. 2:22-cr-00035-MAK-1
Plaintiff, .	
v. .	U.S. Courthouse
ANDREW WOLF, .	601 Market Street
Defendant. .	Philadelphia, PA
.	February 16, 2023
	9:07 a.m.

PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT OF SENTENCING HEARING - IMPOSITION OF
SENTENCE BEFORE HONORABLE MARK A. KEARNEY
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

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1 PROCEEDINGS

2 (Designated portion begins at 2:01 p.m.)

3 THE COURT: Mr. Wolf, we've reached that stage, as
4 I described to you in our plea hearing, that it's now my
5 obligation under the power of -- under Article III of the
6 United States Constitution to address what the law provides.

7 Mr. Wolf, this is not a court of passion. We are
8 a country of a rule of law. These cases and these facts are
9 always, always gross, always offensive. They're the kind of
10 cases that lawyers and judges have to read, put away, read,
11 put away, read, put away, because anybody that would study
12 this thing repetitively would come out with a passionate
13 response. And this is not a court of passion. I'm governed
14 by law, as are you.

15 And so to those who call for blood, those who call
16 for some type of -- that type of remedy, I urge you that
17 understand how Article III of our Constitution works. I
18 don't sit as a judge of a man's heart. That's for a deity.
19 It's not for me. I enforce the law given to me by the
20 United States Congress and hundreds of years of societal
21 norms. Norms that are not based upon who you love, or who
22 you prefer, or who you care for.

23 So to the extent you have ever have a thought,
24 Mr. Wolf, that anything of this has to do with the fact that
25 you perceive -- you are a gay man. Put that out of your

1 head. That has nothing to do with this. And anybody that
2 has that idea is just wrong-headed. They don't understand
3 how the law works. This has nothing to do with who we love,
4 or who we ever loved.

5 Your Counsel has done a nice job in her briefing
6 about addressing the goals of sentencing, because sentencing
7 is, from the days of Leviticus, is the idea that we're going
8 to punish, we're going to punish. Well, that's only one of
9 the goals of sentencing, and punishment is a sentence. It's
10 appropriate.

11 But there are other goals that I have to balance
12 without passion. But I assure you, Mr. Wolf, there's not a
13 human sitting in my seat that has a computer that can
14 disregard what happened here. Judges are not automons. We
15 can't put out of our head that we have children, that we
16 have children and we have friends that have suffered from
17 depression and anxiety, and that we have to address that in
18 a way that understands what both you and the children
19 addressed. And to help me to do that, the United States
20 Congress gives us a variety of factors to consider under
21 Section -- you've heard Counsel talk about Section 3553.

22 And there are very good things in your background.
23 You were not the person who was so highly regarded in the
24 community for accidental reasons. You earned those rights.
25 You earned those accolades. You earned all that

1 recognition. I don't think Springside Chestnut Hill hired
2 people who don't. I don't know. But it would seem to me
3 that you earned it. And as your counsel candidly pointed
4 out pointed out to me to (indiscernible) that's what makes
5 this so hard.

6 To your counsel's argument about we're different
7 than other cases, yeah, we are much different than other
8 cases. This is not the standard case. It's hard for me to
9 find an analogy after spending a lot of time looking for it.
10 It's just hard.

11 There is an overlay here of vengeance that is not
12 going to be part of this court, which is why I so properly
13 reacted to the term forbidden. If anybody thinks for one
14 shape or form, this is a preliminary event for something
15 else, this Court will make sure that we will do everything
16 in our power to ensure that justice is done today and people
17 don't come forward with appropriate, if they want
18 restitution, pursue it in a matter what United States
19 Congress prescribes, we will address it because this is not
20 about a lifetime of punishment by parents and families,
21 although all very warranted in their minds and in their
22 hearts, that's not what this is about today.

23 This begins with the nature and circumstances of
24 the offense. Unfortunately, because you hid the fact you
25 are gay man, something you knew from a very young age, from

1 high school at least, you had to resort to something to find
2 your way out. Unfortunately, Mr. Wolf, we see that all too
3 often. It's a very sad event of your generation, and mine
4 and others, that I hope is not visited upon the next
5 generation. That there was his hiding. And this hiding
6 resorted to people in the -- what they used to call the
7 closet or in back alleys of the internet. And so you were
8 part of that generation.

9 The star of your high school class, the
10 valedictorian, the person everybody wanted to be. How could
11 you come out? I get it. It's understandable because I have
12 a context of what you went through in a sense I know your
13 age. And so your age, as a young man, you began collecting
14 sexually explicit images of young boys since the 1980s.
15 They were found on CDs found by the FBI in their search
16 warrant. Okay, that happens. It is child pornography.

17 By the time you were already teaching, you began
18 to create a pretty serious interest in child pornography of
19 young boys. You began writing stories on erotic -- erotic
20 stories, including stories of -- you know, I think counsel
21 was being careful and cautious when she (indiscernible) when
22 she described the stories as not essentially what we're
23 talking about, like some kind of, you know, Harlequin or
24 Hallmark. These were stories of sexual assault of young
25 boys.

1 And you read on a website, and all of a sudden
2 they're stories that -- and that's fine, you can write what
3 you wish to write. But it led you to among other people, a
4 man by the name of -- a young man by the name of Kray
5 strange from Carthage, New York. And, boy, did you relish
6 in his fandom. He thought you were great.

7 You began trading child porn on a platform known
8 as Telegram beginning at least as early as 2018, that we
9 know of. There's all kinds of missing files, but at least
10 as early as 2018. And you did sell on a near daily basis.

11 At times, you were spending almost all the night,
12 as I reviewed in these Telegram messages, all hours at
13 night, communicating these child pornography fantasies over
14 a Telegram.

15 The FBI recovered more than 15,000 messages
16 between March 2018 and your arrest, sharing your sexual
17 interest in children, trading child pornography, enticing
18 boys, produce child pornography with, among others, at least
19 two other school teachers, a youth hockey coach, a youth
20 baseball coach.

21 But this case -- and this is what really drives my
22 thinking -- those of us who see a lot of people with
23 addictions -- and I'm not Dr. Somerton (phonetic) or Dr.
24 Racket (phonetic), but we see a lot of addictions here and a
25 lot of mental health, unfortunately. And what we've seen

1 time and time and time again, is the dopamine trigger, it
2 needs something more. It needs more. Okay. Enough child
3 porn. I need next. I need next. I need next. It's how
4 people graduate from relatively -- relatively schedule --
5 relatively low level schedule I drugs to something much more
6 serious. That's what they show us.

7 And so what you did, and what concerned -- what
8 really brings us here is that you, between May of 2020 and
9 October 7 2021, you engage Kray Strange, a young man on the
10 autism spectrum, and you developed and operated an online
11 child exploitation catfishing scheme. You enticed minor
12 boys. And when you say "minor," I think your counsel,
13 Ms. Mattes hit it right on the head when she said this, that
14 every case is different. The statutes and guidelines are
15 written with one person in mind, relatively speaking.
16 Congress doesn't have the ability to contract -- concept all
17 the -- conceive all the problems.

18 But you -- you weren't minor boys. Like minor
19 boys are 16. Minor boys are 17. These weren't minor boys.
20 These were in some cases, five -- you know, 9-, 10-year-
21 olds. They weren't 16-year-olds, they were minors.

22 But you went beyond -- this is what I concerned,
23 raising your graduation, you went beyond just accepting the
24 pictures and looking for pictures, which, by the way, your
25 counsel I'm sure has told you, is a federal crime in and of

1 itself that you're not charged with essentially today.

2 Okay. I have a lot of people we sentence just for
3 collecting these pictures.

4 But that wasn't enough for the dopamine hit.

5 Nobody use the word OCD. But boy, this looks like OCD to
6 me. It looks like more, more, more, more. You began
7 obsessively and compulsively following, you need to get
8 this, you need to get this, and you grew to such an extent
9 that you thought you could have the boys self-produce
10 sexually explicit images and send them to Strange, and then
11 to Wolf, to you, over the internet.

12 You engaged in almost daily online communications
13 with each other, you and Mr. Mr. Strange, using an end-to-
14 end encrypted internet-based messaging application and
15 developed and carried out this catfishing scheme. All this
16 is on your cell phone. All this is on your cell phone when
17 the FBI came to talk to you and you said that's all you've
18 done. Conversations amounted to over 4200 pages of
19 communications, over 27,000 messages. Of the approximately
20 4,000 image files exchanged between you and Strang --
21 Mr. Strange, many of the files appeared as empty files,
22 meaning, they were deleted by one of the parties, cannot be
23 retrieved, as counsel just told me. But of the 500 image
24 files between you and Strange, approximately 250 those files
25 clearly depicted child pornography.

1 Okay. So you collect and gather and distribute
2 child pornography. That's a federal crime. You go to jail
3 for many years for that.

4 But then -- but then, we graduated. You began
5 discussing catfishing or baiting. You know, until this
6 case, I didn't really know what catfishing was. I've heard
7 expression; I didn't know what it is. Now I know what it
8 is. You would bait, is the right word for it, and it's used
9 to send the Telegram messages, your own miner boy students
10 this Springside Chestnut Hill.

11 In August of 2020, you began providing Mr. Strange
12 with known social media handles for some of your students.
13 And with Strange also focused on students in social media on
14 Zone. We heard about the boys -- I read about the boys in
15 the Little League World Series. I've read about the other
16 athletic boys. There is a charge for you for conspiracy.
17 That's the charge. With all due respect to the boys who
18 were taken here, that's the charge that's much bigger in my
19 mind. You were -- but for the brazen email, the SCH.org.
20 website email, you were well on your way. I don't know when
21 SCH came back to school after the pandemic, but I think -- I
22 share the United States concern from its counsel that this
23 would have graduated to something more because that's the
24 way you were going. There are people repeatedly -- I agree
25 with Ms. Mattes -- there are people that stop at certain

1 things. But that wasn't what you did.

2 Mr. Strange used a fake online persona to entice
3 the boys to send sexually-explicit images themselves. You
4 went so far on August 18, 2020, just a month or so in
5 dealing with Strange, to not only get your students, but to
6 reference a cute younger brother who did not go to your
7 school.

8 To the parents, the mother of Minor Number 5, you
9 don't know all the facts, I don't think. But you touched
10 upon it that those who had brothers were a particular risk.
11 You bragged -- you bragged. I -- as much as I respect Ms.
12 Mattes and her considerable argument skills today, I
13 disagree with the term, and always disagree with the term
14 locker room talk, trash talk. I don't care who you are, who
15 you think you are. When you're talking about, I would love
16 to see my eighth graders fuck our fifth graders, that's
17 beyond trash talk. And then you paired them up by names.

18 You told Strange on September 16, 2020 -- but you
19 were sort of delaying, right. Here's your little boy, your
20 little fan, and he's delaying in getting you information,
21 and all of a sudden you turn bossy. You say it's time for
22 you to make my students a priority, then exclamation point.
23 It's okay. Strange said he was busy. Hey, my students.

24 Isn't it curious, I respect your intellect to such
25 an extent, Mr. Wolf, that I know you use words, and you know

1 what they mean. It's interesting, you said my students, my
2 eighth graders and our fifth graders. The "our" is a
3 community the trusted you. But they were never my eighth
4 graders, were they? They were never your eighth graders.
5 There's were their eighth graders. There's a brazenness.
6 There's an arrogance there that became so obvious as we go
7 on here. Pride goeth before the fall.

8 And so you said to him to not make any errors with
9 my students. You have to be on your A game. This is very
10 important. You know why, because you know these are really
11 smart young men that are fortunate to attend a very good
12 school. You also know that some of these men are smart
13 enough (indiscernible) get involved. They're not going to
14 be enticed by the picture of a sexually-explicit young lady
15 you stole off the internet.

16 It struck me, Mr. Wolf, as articulate as you are,
17 you never apologized, nor did you recognize the fact that
18 you were viewing pornography of young ladies. You know,
19 people go to jail for a long time for that, and yet, you
20 just look right by that. That in itself would send you to
21 jail.

22 I don't know Mr. Strange. I've only met him once.
23 I'll see him again a couple months, or six weeks or so. You
24 told Strange how to get the hold of these people. You sent
25 instructions and passed them along to the victims regarding

1 sexually-explicit images you wanted the students to create.
2 You were the director.

3 Your counsel, very skilled, answered my question,
4 and that was, I don't think he's a manager a leader, but I
5 do. You directed Mr. -- you directed Mr. Strange how to get
6 the pictures. No, he was pretty good. He seemed to be
7 pretty talented this.

8 You use their own name. You -- look, here's how
9 we know you're graduating. Not only do you have Strange do
10 it, hey, I want in the game now. I want to be Ash Hamilton.
11 This is not fun. You're getting all the fun. I want to be
12 in the conversations too. It just graduates, and graduates,
13 and graduates.

14 You used your name, Ashley Hamilton, on TikTok,
15 Twitch, Snapchat, Kik, Google, and Discord. You. You did
16 this, not Strange. You went looking for such sexually-
17 explicit images of young girls, 13- and 14-year-old girls,
18 those that you can entice young boys.

19 It's curious to me, Mr. Wolf, and I don't pretend
20 in any way to be -- anyway know these issues to the extent
21 you do about schools -- about boys in school, but it seems
22 to me that at some point you talk about like let's get a
23 gay group together. And yet -- and yet, maybe I can
24 understand that. If we get a gay group of boys together,
25 maybe I get that. But yet, you didn't entice the gay boys,

1 or tried to. You tried to entice the heterosexual boys with
2 pictures of young girls that you stole off the internet that
3 are child pornography, who today that group will get paid.
4 They will have restitution from you because you used their
5 pictures.

6 And then when Strange would introduce you.
7 Strange would start a relationship with the young boys and
8 then he would introduce you as Ashley (indiscernible) the
9 conversation. Graduate, graduate, graduate. More dopamine.
10 More dopamine. More dopamine. More dopamine. I need it.
11 I need it.

12 By January of 2021, it's something I've never seen
13 before even in the biggest drug conspiracy cases I've had
14 with massive amounts of high level drugs, have I seen a
15 Google Doc with people who so sophisticated create a list of
16 victims.

17 It goes to show me -- take your counsel's point --
18 that you really are zero or one on the criminal defense
19 scale, because anybody really sells drugs, they don't create
20 paper. They know -- they don't write anything down, right,
21 because they're going to come in front of me. You didn't
22 think that. You created a Google Doc of 78 names. I've
23 seen them. I'm glad the world hasn't seen them. But those
24 78 names are on there. Not only their names, you gave
25 Strange the email addresses. You gave them their full

1 names. You gave them TicToks. You gave them everything.
2 And then you write "got dick, got D, got him." You were
3 checking it off. The United States Counsel did a nice --
4 very nice job of describing this was a game. It's a game,
5 but it's a gradual game.

6 Remember when this was. Everybody remember when
7 this was, right, January 2021. We're in the middle of the
8 pandemic. The vaccination, if I remember correctly, is just
9 starting out, right. Some people weren't even vaccinated or
10 were starting to. School was coming back. Hopefully soon.
11 It confused me because I didn't go to a school that had 12
12 years of education the way SEH does. And so it took me a
13 while to figure out how can I have students in this class
14 that graduated in the class of 2027? How's that possible?
15 Well, I didn't realize because they're in fifth grade.
16 (Indiscernible). So you were picking people -- picking
17 young men way out -- way out of their league, going a long
18 way to school.

19 It struck me that your ego so played a role here,
20 that your brazenness have played a role. I wonder what
21 happened when the boys started growing up? I just wonder.
22 How foolish, brazen are you that you would think that these
23 boys, when they reach the age of real girls being interested
24 in them and dating, et cetera. I read one mother's letter
25 who talked about her son not dating it. I don't think

1 that's the issue. But what I'm getting at is, that would
2 have come out. I mean, I don't know why you thought this
3 was going to be secret. In fact, I think the United States
4 Attorney made a point that people knew about, or maybe
5 (indiscernible) people knew about Ashley and -- and
6 Strange's persona.

7 You maintained a tally of your communications and
8 wrote the words "got them." Emojis, exclamation points.
9 The Google Doc -- let's talk -- I've seen -- this is a 25-
10 page long document. You know, I knew about your background
11 (indiscernible). There it was. Boy, you had it all graphed
12 out for us. And then you kept it. Brazen. Brazen.

13 I made a reference earlier, I want to make sure
14 everyone understands what I said. The facts were that you
15 began to communicate with your students, ask them to send
16 you pics and videos for 50 to \$100. So now that becomes
17 prostitution in some ways. You're asking them to do
18 something for money. And you were paying with a PlayStation
19 card, asking them for pics with another boy. Negotiating --
20 negotiating with one of your students for a pic of a boy
21 naked and ejaculating. Look, put aside all you wrote about,
22 you're not paying for someone. You wrote the word "jack
23 off" on camera in a video that you'll pay for.

24 When the boys did not respond, or they cut you off
25 because they -- their conscience caught up with them or

1 whatever, or they grew up, and you cut them off, or they cut
2 you off, you kept pushing Strange. In June 2021, just
3 months before you were caught, you realize one of the boys
4 (indiscernible). You said, I guess you have to keep going
5 back, keep trying the boys every so often. Go back for
6 them. Maybe they'll change their mind.

7 When they stopped, Minor 3 blocked your emails.
8 You told Strange -- this is really something -- you told
9 him, maybe you should leak the pictures to his friends. And
10 you tell Strange, "Your extortion makes me so hard, dude."
11 You're a respected teacher. I'm not even going to say what
12 dude means, but I don't know what you think extortion is.
13 But in our world, it means something. In your father's
14 world, it means something. In the world you know about, it
15 means something.

16 You expressed interest yourself then. And I agree
17 with the United States, and I disagree with your counsel, as
18 articulate as they are, that this is all trash talk or the
19 talk of a brazen man to talk -- you know, you are not that
20 guy, Mr. Wolf. Everything you sent your goal to, you went
21 and got. You are an enormously accomplished person at your
22 age, from a young age. Your parents are rightly proud of
23 other than this conduct. And you said, among other things,
24 you wrote to another school teacher, whose name I'm going to
25 publish all over the place, out in Bunag, B-u-n-a-g. 3392

1 messages to him. He's a school teacher. And you are
2 watching one of his videos that he was having sex with a 13-
3 year-old. His student. You said, "You are so lucky. I
4 want to see more. I really need a 13-year-old. I really
5 need to find 13-year-old to fuck."

6 Don't tell me. Don't -- don't insult the
7 intelligence of a person who knows what words mean to say,
8 like you, who was so careful in the rest of your life, that
9 you didn't mean that.

10 You told the same Mr. Bunag that you had
11 masturbated out of students' view a few times on the video
12 call with students during the pandemic. That you'd be on a
13 Zoom call with them and you'd be masturbating while they
14 were talking. Not here yet. I got it. Your counselor's
15 right. No touching. Not yet.

16 But January 6, 2020, you send photos of boys
17 described as third and fourth graders, you described as
18 quote, "worth raping. Worth raping."

19 In virtual classes, you told your Telegram
20 associates, you gave assignments to students make videos
21 themselves, which you then would distribute on Telegram.
22 You coordinate a one-on-one meeting with a student at
23 nine p.m. I don't know if it's one of these parent
24 students. This is just amazing to me. You feel quote, "very
25 naughty." Your words, I read it. "Very naughty." Because

1 you're supposed to meet them after five p.m. That's very
2 naughty. But you said it was fun to watch them in the room
3 where they jack off.

4 You told Strange on November 12, 2020, you got
5 horny in class just watching a boy over Zoom. You watched
6 him and started touching yourself. These things are not --
7 you're not being prosecuted, you're not being guilty, but to
8 tell me we are not graduating, is to insult anyone's thought
9 process here.

10 You told the gentleman known as Mr. Pickles, who
11 now I know is Mr. Gasco (phonetic), and another person, that
12 on overnight chaperone trip, you stole his underwear. And
13 maybe another boy. You masturbated in another boy's
14 underwear, and you put the masturbated boy's underwear --
15 you put the underwear back into the boy's child bag while
16 they're camping. I don't know if that's true or not. You
17 said it. You said it. And I'm not suggesting -- I'm not
18 suggesting that it happened. All I'm saying is, to say to
19 me that you were not graduating in your intent, it's just
20 not possible.

21 Then you involve the parents. You're arranged
22 that Strange uses persona Alex Zampini, to have one of your
23 students excuse himself from your class to go to the
24 bathroom and send Alex Zampini a sexually-explicit image.
25 While you're in (indiscernible), Strange would send a

1 message to a boy -- this is -- I don't know what SCH does,
2 but apparently in this class -- or this might be on Zoom, I
3 -- no, it's in class -- apparently in class you can get --
4 you go and you get messages I guess. You can't do that in a
5 courtroom, but apparently in his class you can. And the
6 student refused to do so. Good for him. Because you wanted
7 to see -- you wanted the boy to go to the bathroom,
8 masturbate, and you think about it, knowing he's
9 masturbating while he's supposed to be in your class.

10 A few days later, you met with the same student's
11 parents to discuss strategies on improving his grade. That
12 great parent-teacher meeting. You suggested to Strange, I
13 had a hot idea. Not an idea, I have a hot idea. I'm going
14 to introduce this boy to me. You introduce this boy to me
15 as Ashley -- in other words, Strange, introduce this boy to
16 me as Ashley -- shortly before that meeting, and I could
17 have him show off to me during virtual class, maybe my own.

18 Okay. You knew how to groom. The word we use in
19 this area is called grooming. People rarely sexually
20 assault people without knowing them. Doctor after doctor
21 after doctor have told us that. You don't -- you very
22 rarely, except for assault cases, go up and just sexually
23 assault somebody you know.

24 So you groom them. That's what they call it. You
25 touch them. You touch their hair. You rub their shoulders.

1 You knew one of them. You mentioned to Strange that you're
2 grooming them. You're touching them -- this one boy,
3 because it's working to your advantage. This certain boy
4 does not have an older brother, kind of acting in that role.

5 You then went to work. And the allegation is you
6 touched another boy's tummy. You told him he had great
7 pelvic muscle. You said I'm not even sure that is a thing.
8 You just made it up. I told him I coach middle school kids,
9 and it's important to have strong pelvic muscle. I couldn't
10 believe it. This is your words, not mine. I couldn't
11 believe it. But he just trusts me. Which is exactly why
12 it's illegal.

13 And then the words 00 next word is the telling
14 word. Exactly why it is illegal. Ha ha. Ha ha. To
15 manipulate a kid. To manipulate a kid. No pics, but I put
16 my hand on his waistband, and I, quote, "accidentally," end
17 quote, "brushed my hand over his dick."

18 You exchange communications with Mr. Pickles where
19 you shared pictures of your students with him. He's an
20 elementary and middle school teacher, a youth hockey coach
21 in San Diego and Dansko began communicating with Strange.
22 Again, he picks the two-year students engaged in sexual
23 conduct with each other. I share Mother Number 5's concern.
24 I don't know where these picks are. I'm going to make sure
25 that penalty goes to that exploit -- the child exploit --

1 the National Fund because I'm afraid, I'm afraid that some
2 of these children may not come forward in this case, and
3 maybe they can recover somewhere else because they are
4 victims. Their pictures are out there. Let nobody think
5 that those pictures aren't out there. They haven't been
6 recovered. They're out there somewhere.

7 You also communicate with James Bowers, Jr.
8 (phonetic) and share images of your students with Bowers
9 before they discuss -- this is interesting -- how Strange
10 should respond after learning of your arrest.

11 MS. HARRELL: And, Your Honor, I'm sorry to
12 interrupt you. But just to be clear, Mr. Wolf, we don't
13 have any evidence he communicated with Mr. Bowers.

14 THE COURT: Oh, I'm sorry. Mr. Strange did.

15 MS. HARRELL: That's Mr. Strange. Yes, Your
16 Honor.

17 THE COURT: I'm sorry, I meant Mr. Strange. Ms.
18 Strange -- I'm sorry -- Mr. Strange exchanged communication
19 and he was wondering how he should communicate --

20 MS. HARRELL: Yes.

21 THE COURT: -- after the arrest. Yeah, I'm sorry.
22 I said Strange exchanged communication. I misunderstood I
23 said you. Mr. Strange. Thank you.

24 So now I turn from that horror story to who you
25 are. And you're 42 years old. You're born and raised in a

1 loving home by your mom and dad. Dad's now retired after a
2 very successful career as an attorney. You're very close to
3 mom and dad. You're happy in life, a privileged life, a
4 family-oriented life. Vacations. You talked about it; how
5 great your life was. You went to a very good public school,
6 a fantastic college. You excel everywhere.

7 You have a sister in Warrington with two
8 daughters. I recall them one references somewhere where you
9 said, I'm glad about -- I hope my daughter is not a man or a
10 boy, you know. So am I. And I'm glad that your sister has
11 two daughters. Your sister has been kind enough to see to
12 tell us that she will open her home to you upon your
13 release.

14 You have paternal half siblings. An attorney in
15 Maryland who did not contact you after the arrest, and half
16 sibling Jennifer in the Netherlands. You have a close
17 relationship with Jennifer. I read one of her letters to
18 you -- to us.

19 I read all the letters, and they all tell the same
20 story. They all tell the same story, that if I sort of put
21 blinders on for what happens at night, or what happens in
22 the classroom. I can't do that. I can't do that. But you
23 got away with it for a lot of years.

24 First in your high school class, valedictorian,
25 graduating in 2002 from Cornell. You lived at home for a

1 couple years before you graduated. You were working at
2 Abington High School, at your school district from 2002 to
3 September 2004.

4 You worked in Amsterdam in engineering you're your
5 graduation. But you said it's not for you. You want to
6 come home and teach. I agree with you, Mr. Wolf. I don't
7 have any evidence that you went looking for a job where
8 you'd be around these boys. I don't see that.

9 But what I do see is that -- as you said, is that
10 -- kind of somewhat ironic or funny or -- not even funny,
11 sick -- that you ended up in a place like that. And if all
12 you have in your mind was your preference for little boys,
13 that would be a different day. Right. I don't know how
14 many people teach schools and have those preferences.
15 That's not my business. That's okay. It's acting upon it.
16 Acting upon it. And then my fear is acting upon more of it.
17 I'm not (indiscernible) my fear of it, but it goes into my
18 idea of deterrence.

19 You were in every shape and sense of the word, a
20 model of what we want our students to be. You even went to
21 Arcadia University with a 3.91 GPA and got a teaching
22 certificate. You wanted to be teacher. Thank you. Thank
23 you when our best and brightest want to teach.

24 I saw your salary. Right. Thank you. Because I
25 know what a man like you with your education could earn in

1 the marketplace. So we thank you for that. And your
2 counsel's absolutely right. We cannot ignore your public --
3 what you've done for our public, the way you've educated,
4 the way you've taught, besides what has happened here. That
5 is not -- I don't -- and I play that. And by the way to cut
6 the drama, there is some grounds for variance here. It
7 doesn't -- because first of all, because -- because it's not
8 part of any variance from 2800 months. But there's also
9 grounds -- because I am mindful of who you are.

10 This is not conduct that's -- it is not
11 (indiscernible) exceptional for you, you did this for years,
12 but it is conduct that is the exception to your role of your
13 life.

14 You are the unique person that comes before me
15 with so much given to you, that your parents worked so hard
16 for. I greatly appreciate your remorse today, sir. I didn't
17 hear -- I agree with mom, but I didn't hear remorse last
18 time. Maybe you weren't -- and your counsel was candid with
19 me that he didn't quite -- that you come around. But I
20 heard today, at least as to the boys and their families and
21 the SCH community, maybe not so much to the girls and the
22 other boys.

23 But you are unique also in that because of your
24 father's hard work and your hard work, you've amassed quite
25 a wealth. As of a week ago -- and I asked counsel when we

1 started, as those financial statements still accurate. About
2 a week ago, you had a net worth of over \$2.1 million. We
3 will watch that. Not me. The United States Attorney has
4 very talented financial people will watch that. If things
5 start happening that money, we're all going to be back in
6 here. And people who help you doing that will be back in
7 here with me. Because we're going to make sure that money
8 doesn't start moving. Hundreds of thousands of dollars in
9 your name in money market accounts, in Bitcoin certificates
10 of deposit. You sold your house while incarcerated and
11 placed the proceeds in trust for your daughter. And your
12 dad now holds a general power of attorney diminishing your
13 financial affairs. So for whatever your dad may think or
14 do, he steps into your shoes for financial matters, and if
15 something happens to that funds, we will be -- there may be
16 an accounting.

17 Compare this conduct to who you are though. I
18 mean, this is a guy that everybody told me we showed -- you
19 when you couldn't wait to have the baby. People and their
20 parents gave you their kids' clothing. They brought you
21 presents for your baby. I'm not going to mention her first
22 name, but C.W. You brought it. You paid a lot of money for
23 a surrogate agency. She lit up your life. Everything I
24 heard is she was -- you were a doting father.

25 I don't think by the way, you're going to have to

1 worry about your daughter. Your daughter's very young, and
2 it's up to your sister and your parents how they raise her.
3 But I'm not so worried about the fact that she's going to be
4 embarrassed by you or -- because I don't know what she'll
5 know. That's not my problem. It's not like you're getting
6 out of prison while she's a young woman. She's going to be
7 much an adult.

8 You've not been married. You've had -- you had
9 you had a male friend in college, you had a physical
10 relationship. You're self -- describe yourself as very
11 strong physically. You have no history of mental illness or
12 emotional issues as a child. And I agree with mother Number
13 5, isn't that unique, right, that you have no diagnosis of
14 mental illness right by any of the doctors, some depression
15 -- depressive episodes, but, you know, no OCD. No --
16 nothing that shows us this would happened.

17 Dr. Atkins, your doctor, concludes you are and
18 always won't be attracted to minors. It's neither curable
19 or treatable. Okay. That's not a crime. But your conduct
20 has severely impacted. I only heard from Mother 5, but I
21 heard letters from several others, and I want the record to
22 reflect I read all those letters.

23 I'm particularly moved by Minor Number 1, who I
24 understand is the -- one of the older ones, if I'm reading
25 it correctly. And Minor Number 1 tells a remarkable story,

1 a story that rings all too true.

2 You may not know this, Mr. Wolf, but I was a child
3 advocate as a lawyer. And I represented a lot of people
4 that were abused by their parents. And time and time and
5 time and time and time again, the parents would blame the
6 kid for the teacher's conduct. And Minor Number 1 gives me
7 an indication of that. How could it be Andrew Wolf? What's
8 going on? What's wrong with you? You're a loser. You're a
9 drug addict. You didn't believe that. You built them up,
10 to your credit, had you just stopped there. Had you just
11 stopped there. That's what a teacher does. When their
12 parents beat down their confidence, you build it up, and you
13 did that.

14 You have that issue where you keep the same
15 interest in boys. Your interest in boys never grew into
16 men. It's not like you turned into a gay man. That's,
17 again, not what I'm here about. But it goes to show that we
18 have to understand where -- what deterrence means for you
19 and what supervised release means for you.

20 Both Dr. Somerton and Dr. Atkins, both of whom I
21 take some credibility with, and others, I don't agree with
22 everything they say, I find both of them credible, and
23 reliable in part, but also I don't believe everything that
24 goes on there. But both come out to and say that there was
25 a loneliness that you had hiding as a gay man, compounded by

1 the pandemic, and disappointment in your work that led you
2 to seek relief. Relief in this sense being sexual conduct,
3 self -- self-satisfaction that led itself to dopamine hits
4 larger and larger.

5 But let's not kid anybody here that you knew you
6 were doing illegal conduct. You never thought you were
7 harming the boys because you they thought you're interacting
8 with a young girl. That's a little bit like saying the bank
9 doesn't miss the money. They have lots of money. Your
10 skilled counsel will tell you that still a bank robbery.

11 And what the boys thought or didn't think is the
12 intent -- that's their own issues. And I'm sure they're
13 wrestling with it. And hopefully, they come seek
14 restitution under 3663. But I'm going to hope they met.
15 When I say hope, whatever they do is up to them. But I
16 don't hope one way or the other, but they met.

17 But you -- your intent -- your intent was to get
18 them to engage in sexual acts that you could watch for your
19 own sexual self-satisfaction. The pictures were no longer
20 enough to you. The videos were no longer enough to you.
21 You talked about rape. You talked about sex with 13-year-
22 olds.

23 Now, it didn't happen, and you're not here for
24 that. Because if that were happening, your counsel was
25 right on that we wouldn't even be -- the word life wouldn't

1 even be an issue. It wouldn't even be a question. But
2 we're not talking life here. We're a little bit shy of that
3 because we didn't go there. Maybe we didn't go there
4 because you got really brazen. You were brazen all along,
5 but man, you got brazen at the end.

6 Mr. Donato is a skilled and experienced attorney
7 and I trust his judgment. I think -- I think -- I had the
8 same thought, Mr. Donato. I had the same thought that this
9 is almost -- this is almost like a -- self-defeating, self-
10 destructive. Like I'm going to send it to my work email?

11 Combined with somebody deleting emails, so
12 deleting these Telegrams. It's kind of weird. I don't know
13 who did that. It could have been Strange. I'll find out in
14 a few weeks.

15 I compare all those facts, sir, into what really
16 my job is, and that is, the need to impose a sentence that
17 reflects the seriousness of the offense. This is a most
18 serious offense. United States Congress tells me it's a
19 minimum of 15 years per count. So any one of them would be
20 15 years. Any one of those boys be 15 years. The
21 conspiracy would be 15 years. For everyone else in the
22 country, 15 years. Okay. That's where we start, the
23 maximum of 30.

24 Congress, the people we elect, they set the rules.
25 They said no more than 30, Judge, per count. Okay. But

1 it's per count, so I've got to be mindful that.

2 This is a most serious offense. This is among the
3 most serious offenses I can find, short of touching. Short
4 of touching. Your counsel is absolutely right. We've had
5 cases where we've had adults direct activity, and then get
6 involved. Mom tells dad to have sex with her daughter, and
7 they film it. Yeah, in that spectrum, at least to the mom,
8 that's bad.

9 But typically, we have one victim, and typically,
10 we have it occurring over a very short period of time. And
11 typically, we don't have the kind of escalating conduct that
12 we had here.

13 I have to afford adequate deterrence, sir. And
14 when I consider adequate deterrence, I have to consider,
15 among other factors, both your deterrence, jail for a long
16 time going to do that, but also deterrence to the public. I
17 don't know -- Boys Town, right? Boys Town. I don't know
18 Boys Town. I don't know what it means. I didn't look it
19 up. And I don't care to look it up, but -- no one asked me
20 to look it up -- but whoever is out there in Boys Town has
21 got to know this is happening; that there's federal judges
22 out there that they are saying, no, is not going to happen.
23 So that's the deterrence I'm talking about.

24 I'm not so worried about you, Mr. Wolf. I agree,
25 I think you're credible with you say I'm not going to do

1 this again. I think that brain of yours has realized I
2 can't do this. That dopamine, it's not worth it. But I
3 have to think about the rest of the world. Because
4 unfortunately, there's Boys Towns out there, and
5 unfortunately, Ms. Harrell is very busy and the agents are
6 very busy. You're not their only case.

7 I have to have respect for the law. And in your
8 case, that weighs very much against you. I guess why -- I
9 guess this is why this is illegal. Yeah, you think, it is
10 illegal. You knew it was illegal, and you went and did it
11 anyway. You're not going to get caught. You're not going
12 to get caught. The boys trust me.

13 To provide just punishment for the offense, the
14 defense is not --

15 (Court addresses another party in courtroom.)

16 THE COURT: Provide just punishment for the
17 offense means that I have to consider everything here,
18 devoid of some passion. What is just here?

19 And to the parents and to the boys and to the SCH
20 community, I say I can't -- nothing I do today can bring
21 back what happened. I don't have that power. I know no one
22 that has that power. I urge those of you who have issues to
23 start talking about it. You know what causes the shame and
24 the stigma, you not talking about it. Yes, wilderness. Yes,
25 residential Schools. Yes, long-term independent -- that

1 long-term therapy. It's all unnecessary. Stop hiding it.

2 Every one of these boys -- I'm not a doctor -- but
3 every one of these boys is subjected to severe trauma. If
4 they were run over by a truck, you'd have them in a
5 hospital. I'm not scolding you. I'm just saying I can't
6 give you what you need. Putting this man away for 2,000
7 months doesn't do anything for you and your boy, nor for the
8 girls whose pictures were taken, nor for the other boys
9 whose pictures were taken. I can't do -- that's not just.

10 What's just here is your boys get treatment. That
11 you don't lose a dime because of it. That you come back and
12 see that money. That's what's just. That you get -- that
13 your boys through therapy -- and I have seen this time and
14 time again, become much more mature than anybody their age.
15 I promise they probably already are. They know things in
16 their mind that boys their own age have no idea. They will
17 grow up in a world that's not going to be as tempted by the
18 foibles of teenage and college years as others. Time and
19 time again, we see that. Maybe. Maybe not. But you're
20 right mom, that there's a risk that they will self-medicate
21 with alcohol and drugs. But Mr. Wolf, can't correct that
22 either.

23 So just means something that we can do to help.
24 And I think Mr. Wolf is telling me in his very candid
25 allocution that he wants to see -- he will try to help your

1 boys without being near them, because they do need to be
2 treated. And they need to be treated now. They need to be
3 treated now. Stop thinking of vengeance and start thinking
4 of your boys and the treatment they need.

5 The parents in the audience, I tell you that,
6 those of us who do these cases, read hundreds and hundreds
7 and hundreds of letters of people who are victimized by
8 this. And every time, there's a check comes in the mail,
9 they get victimized because they relive it. We're not going
10 to do that. All these payments are going to be now. Now.
11 They're going to be paid. The money's there now. We're
12 going to pay it now. We're going to stop this. We're going
13 to get these boys the treatment they need. That's just
14 punishment.

15 Just punishment also requires a sentence long
16 beyond the minimum of 15 years. Congress tells me a minimum
17 15 years. I have to consider protecting the public from
18 further crimes. I'm not so -- protect the public from
19 Defendant's further crimes. I'm not so concerned about you,
20 Mr. Wolf, doing this again. I think when you come out of
21 jail, you won't be able -- you won't be in the mind to do
22 so.

23 I need to consider providing educational and
24 vocational training. That's not who, Mr. Wolf. In fact,
25 Mr. Worf, I am -- I was so pleased to read what you're doing

1 for your fellow people, incarcerated persons. That tells me
2 who you are, right. This is something else.

3 And by the way, if it had been the other way, if
4 you'd gone to prison and been Angry Andrew, we'd have a
5 different story today. It shows me who you are, but for
6 your gradual dopamine hits that led you to do something that
7 may have taken you much worse places, but took you pretty
8 far place.

9 Congress tells me a minimum of 15 to a maximum 30
10 years on each count, but I can run those counts
11 concurrently. The guidelines tell me 2880 months. That's
12 not going to happen. I'm bearing down with 2880, for among
13 other reasons, because it's way overstated.

14 Counsel's made good arguments. And counsel knows,
15 as does the United States Attorney, that many judges are
16 skeptical of child porn sentences for receipt. That is
17 something that's in my computer, and they go away -- that's
18 60 months ago. (Indiscernible) in the mail. Congress will
19 address that, as will the Sentencing Commission. So we're
20 skeptical of it.

21 This is not that case. This is the exceptional
22 case. This is not the case where you have rape
23 photographed. But this is a case where we have a teacher, a
24 predator teacher.

25 I have to consider the policy statement issued by

1 the Sentencing Commission that governs this. And one that
2 always governs this is a sentence that's sufficient but not
3 greater than necessary. Not greater than necessary.

4 Necessary to what? Necessary to make sure the rule of law
5 is upheld. Make sure it's necessary for Mr. Wolf.

6 I need to avoid unwarranted sentence disparities
7 among defendants with similar records found guilty of
8 similar conduct.

9 I agree with you Ms. Mattes. I agree with her.
10 I've read the same cases that were cited. I saw them.
11 They're different. But every case in this world is
12 different. And I can't find a case like this one. I can't
13 find a case where I have a predator teacher who's -- has a
14 Google Chart of targeted kids in his school who was
15 masturbating to those kids while he's on Zoom calls with
16 them. Forget that. Who's trying to entice them to show
17 them pictures of him engaged -- of the students engaged in
18 sexual conduct with their family members and others ones to
19 ejaculate on screen to get \$50. It's not possible. It's
20 not possible.

21 Whatever they're doing in California or Hawaii or
22 wherever these other people are, send them -- this judge --
23 those judges there should know this case is an exceptional
24 one. I don't know what those people did.

25 I need to -- so -- but the person I do consider is

1 Mr. Strange. And, Mr. Strange, I think will have a
2 different day in court.

3 Mr. Strange, by the way, for those who are
4 interested, has a very similar guidelines and very similar
5 sentence range, but he's different. He's not the teacher.
6 He's not the one he trusted.

7 I consider providing restitution, and we will
8 order restitution. I disagree with United States'
9 recommendation. I'm higher. I don't know why -- the United
10 States is being fair to you, and that's fine. They're not
11 always fair. I think -- I think the people -- I think we
12 should recognize that the United States sits here today as a
13 sovereign, not as an advocate to a case. It must recommend
14 a sentence it believes is appropriate. Not because it wants
15 to vindication, but -- or to vindicate, but because, as a
16 sovereign, they believe this is appropriate, and they're
17 recommending \$100,000. But that's -- \$100,000 is a lot of
18 money, unless you have 2.1 in liquid assets.

19 And you're right, the fact that the families have
20 not come forward with a restitution request yet after months
21 and months and months and months, maybe -- they have every
22 right to do it within the next 90 days, but it tells me that
23 maybe we should get the money out now, at least some of it.

24 And so restitution will be ordered. Forfeiture
25 will be ordered. Restitution under all the acts, under

1 Juvenile Act, under the Amy Act, the ADAA, under 3663 to be
2 held -- to be held in abeyance until a hearing in about 120
3 days after we get those affidavits in here from families, if
4 they wish to present.

5 There is no motion for departure for the United
6 States. There is a motion for variance from the Defense,
7 which I have granted because of the nature of -- because of
8 the gentleman's conduct other than this conduct, and because
9 the guidelines in this case at 2880 months were overstated.

10 So having considered all those factors, Mr. Wolf
11 now turns to me to deliver sentence of the Court.

12 And as the judgment of this Court, under
13 Sentencing Reform Act of 1984, that the Defendant, Andrew
14 Wolf, is hereby committed to the custody of the Bureau of
15 Prisons to be imprisoned for a term of 250 months on Counts
16 2 through 8 to run concurrently.

17 He's also going to be sentenced to a term of 216
18 months on Count 1 to run consecutive to the sentence on
19 Counts 2 through 8.

20 On each of those on each of those two sentences,
21 you will be sentenced to a term of five years of supervised
22 release thereafter. Thereafter, you will -- I recommend to
23 the Bureau of Prisons that you shall participate in any
24 treatment programs for sexual disorders. Not sexual
25 disorders of who you love. That's not what we're talking

1 about. Sexual disorders of the nature of which you were
2 compelled to continually try to increase your level of
3 sexual satisfaction by soliciting young boys to engage in
4 sexual conduct, so you could be self-gratifying, along with
5 your friends. I shouldn't say friends. Hundreds of
6 thousands of unknown people in the United States and around
7 the world.

8 In addition, while you're on supervised release,
9 you shall provide full disclosure financial records, provide
10 income returns, and all financial information.

11 You will register with all appropriate local
12 government, state and local government authorities under the
13 Sex Offender Registration Notification Act, as directed by
14 your probation officer upon supervised release.

15 You shall report to probation officer any regular
16 contact with children of either age, of either sex under the
17 age of 18.

18 You shall not -- you are prohibited for the rest
19 of your life -- well, excuse me -- the five years supervised
20 release from obtaining employment or performing volunteer
21 work, which includes any contact -- regular contact with
22 children under the age of 18.

23 You shall, under supervised release, provide your
24 computer devices for inspection by the U.S. Probation Office
25 for all investigation as they deem appropriate.

1 You shall provide a DNA sample to the Director
2 United States Probation Office. And you shall provide --
3 and you will comply with standard conditions that have been
4 adopted by this Court.

5 There is no basis here to impose mandatory drug
6 testing on you. That's not your issue. You've never been a
7 drug addict. You smoked weed a little bit, but you're not
8 drug addict. I'll say weed cavalier. You smoked marijuana,
9 which is a Schedule I drug. And you drank in college, but
10 you're not -- that's not your issue. You weren't motivated
11 by a drug. So there's no need to have that kind of testing.

12 In addition, you will pay a fine at the low end of
13 the guidelines range of \$50,000 to United States. That's
14 the last obligation you have.

15 The first obligation you have is \$800 as a special
16 assessment. That's \$100 per count. That's due immediately.

17 The second obligation you have is under the
18 Juvenile -- get the right name of it here -- under the
19 Juvenile Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015, you
20 will pay a special assessment of \$40,000 due immediately in
21 a lump sum.

22 In addition, under the Amy, Vicky, and Andy Child
23 Pornography Victim Assistance Act, and having considered all
24 those 3553 factors, including the conspiracy charge, most
25 notably the conspiracy charge, which involves other than

1 these young men before me today under the other counts, you
2 shall pay a total restitution -- mandatory restitution of
3 \$150,000 due immediately.

4 I'm going to waive the cost of prosecution only
5 because of the fine.

6 In addition, we're going granting United States
7 leave under Title 18, United States Code 3663(4) and --
8 3633(A) and 3664, as well as United States Code 20 -- Title
9 18, 2259(A) and 2259.

10 To provide affidavits describing the full victim
11 -- full amount of the victims' losses incurred, or
12 reasonably projected to be incurred, by the victim as a
13 result of trafficking, depicting the victim, I would
14 thereafter order restitution in an amount which reflects
15 your role in the process that caused the victims' losses,
16 but which is no less than \$3,000. Those funds will be due
17 immediately upon that order.

18 The United States is granted leave under
19 Congressional's mandate, under Congress's mandate for 90
20 days to obtain those affidavits and move this Court for
21 modification of the Judgment Commitment Order to make this
22 award under 3663 -- 33 -- 3664 and 3663(A).

23 You will, of course, and your counsel attend that
24 session. Nothing will be done outside your presence,
25 Mr. Wolf.

1 Any questions as to the term of sentence from the
2 United States?

3 MS. HARRELL: No, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Any questions of term of sentence from
5 the Defense?

6 MR. DONATO: No, sir.

7 THE COURT: Any question of term of sentence from
8 officer?

9 PROBATION OFFICER: No, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Mr. Wolf, consistent with whatever
11 rights you agreed to in your plea agreement, you have the
12 right to appeal the sentence to the United States Court of
13 Appeals. Be mindful that the sentence in all contexts falls
14 below the mandatory -- the maximum sentence set by the
15 United States Congress and varied downward from the
16 guidelines.

17 But you have that right, sir, to do so within 14
18 days. And if your attorneys are unable to do so on your
19 behalf, we will appoint counsel on your behalf. Do you
20 understand that right, sir?

21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

22 THE COURT: Anything further from the United
23 States?

24 MS. HARRELL: No, thank you, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Anything further from the Defense?

1 MR. DONATO: Nothing further, Your Honor. Thank
2 you.

3 THE COURT: Officer?

4 OFFICER: No, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Ms. Mattes, Mr. Donato, we thank you.

6 It's a tough case, Mr. Wolf. No one is taking
7 pleasure today. I wish you well. To your family, I wish
8 you well and wish you peace.

9 Court's adjourned.

10 THE DEPUTY: All rise.

11 (Designated portion concluded at 3:06 p.m.)

12 * * *

13 * *

14 **C E R T I F I C A T I O N**

15 I, Valori Weber, court approved transcriber,
16 certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from
17 the official electronic sound recording of the
18 proceedings in the above-entitled matter, and to the best
19 of my ability.

20
21 /s/ Valori Weber

22 Valori Weber

23

24 Dated: March 24, 2023

25